



HAMILTON COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

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MINUTES

LEPC Meeting, November 15, 2000

A meeting of the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held November 15, 2000 at the Fire Training Center, 3200 Amnicola Highway, Chattanooga, TN.

Those in attendance were:

Bruce Garner, Chairman, Chattanooga Fire Department
David Darnell, First Vice Chairman, BASF
Larry Martin, Vice Chairman, McKee Foods
Jamie Farrow, Vice Chairman, Conagra
Wayne Stuntz, Secretary, Hamilton County Emergency Services
Max Middleton, Tennessee Eastman, Guest Speaker
Tony Quarles, Chattanooga Fire Department
Eric Helquist, Fuels Marketing Group
Caroline Williams, League of Women Voters
Thaddeus Morton, Chattanooga Fire Department
Tony Reavely, Hamilton County Emergency Services
Chuck Nichols, Chattanooga Fire Department
Jim Coppinger, Chattanooga Fire Department
Kevan Parker, HEPACO, Inc.
Kevin Condra, HEPACO, Inc.
Mike Beavers, TVA-Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
Chris Young, Atlanta Gas Light Company
Tim Arnold, TN State Guard
Skip Vaughn, Chattanooga Police Department
Maureen Handler, Environmental Response
Eric Burnett, City Traffic Engineering
Amy Maxwell, Hamilton County Emergency Services
Scott Hagwood, Industrial Risk Insurers
Michael Brooks, East Ridge Fire Department
Mike Pemberton, Chattanooga Fire Department
Jim Parks, Chattanooga Health Department
Tyson Chandler, Mueller Company
Bill Asbill, W.R. Grace

Chairman Bruce Garner called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and welcomed all those in attendance. He called upon Chief Coppinger of the Chattanooga Fire Department to give the opening remarks to the Committee.

Chief Coppinger said he welcomed the opportunity to host the LEPC meeting and that it was important that the Fire Department maintain a strong partnership with the LEPC, other community agencies and industry to better provide services our community deserves. He said that the LEPC is on the right track and stressed how important the LEPC is to the Chattanooga Fire Department—that it takes teamwork with industry, government and other agencies to bring it all together.

Old Business:

The Chairman then asked members in attendance if they had received the last LEPC minutes and those members present responded that they had. He then asked if there were any corrections, or comments regarding the September 20th, 2000 meeting minutes. There being none, a motion was made by Chief Tony Reavley to accept the minutes as published. The motion as seconded by Ms Caroline Williams and was carried by the membership.

The Chairman then asked Mr. Stuntz for the LEPC financial report. Mr. Stuntz said that the LEPC's financial status was somewhat in a transition period in that an audit of the LEPC account had been requested for the period December 31, 1998 through December 31, 2000 through the Hamilton County Auditors office. Mr. Burnett, the previous LEPC Chairman, is still in possession of the LEPC Financial Account and was asked to maintain it until all the bank matters pertaining to LEPC Conference 2000 were settled. Mr. Stuntz said that a complete financial report would be made at the next meeting scheduled sometime in January 2001.

The Chairman asked Mr. Stuntz to comment on the agenda item regarding the annual campaign letter to raise operating funds for the LEPC. He said that this annual solicitation for donations letter is sent out at the beginning of the year, prior to the March 1st Tier II deadline, to companies that submit Tier IIs, businesses that do not file Tier II reports, non-profit organizations and individual members of the LEPC. A copy of the January 2000 letter was given to Amy Maxwell, Co-Chairman of the Membership Sub-Committee and she was asked to start preparing a similar letter for year 2001.

New Business:

Mr. David Darnell had the pleasure of introducing Mr. Max Middleton, one of the guest speakers for the meeting. Mr. Darnell said that Mr. Middleton was a Development Associate with the Plant Protection program at Tennessee Eastman Division from Kingsport, Tennessee and was invited to speak to the committee on how to conduct a transportation density study.

Mr. Middleton began by thanking the Committee for inviting him to speak and complemented the LEPC on the quality and excellence of the August 9-10 Conference this year. Mr. Middleton then proceeded to give an overview of a survey conducted by a local Boy Scout group for the LEPC in Kingsport. A copy of Mr. Middleton's presentation is on CD and available upon request by contacting Mr. Stuntz, LEPC Title III Coordinator.

The Chairman then shared with the committee a short video on a story that TN Channel 12 aired in November on hazardous substances that are used and transported by local companies. The video addressed our preparedness measures, and included interviews with Chief Coppinger, Tactical Services Chief Chuck Nichols, Bruce Garner with the Chattanooga Fire Department, and David Darnell with BASF. At the end of the report, viewers were shown how to access an EPA web site to check out the local facilities that have submitted Risk Management Plans.

The Chairman then turned the meeting over to Tactical Services Chief Nichols of the Chattanooga Fire Department, who gave a review of recent HAZMAT incidents in our community. The Chief said that to date, the City had responded to over 300 emergency responses involving hazardous materials ranging from minor fuel spills to extremely hazardous material incidents. Chief Nichols said that Chattanooga is a major transportation corridor and when a serious incident occurs, it ties-up resources and creates a serious financial impact on the department. He cited several such incidents of haz-mat response and appealed to the chemical industry to be more involved in prevention and preparedness, stressing the need to continue both physical and procedural controls and stay in compliance with environmental regulations. A copy of Chief Nichol's presentation can be viewed by contacting Mr. Stuntz, LEPC Title III Coordinator.

The Chairman then spoke to the Committee about the need for members to take a more active role in the LEPC. Mr. Garner said the LEPC plays an important role in helping to ensure public safety, at least as it relates to the chemical hazards in our community. He said that being a member of the LEPC should involve more than coming to the meeting

every other month and having lunch. He suggested that one way to become an active member is to be pro-active in one of the LEPC sub-committees. The Chairman said that

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there's a lot of work to be done—but if everyone does a little, a lot will be accomplished. First Vice Chairman Darnell chipped in by saying: “you might as well sign-up now and avoid nagging phone calls from the Executive Committee”. Mr. Garner also pointed out that as Chairman, the by-laws allow him to appoint members to subcommittees if necessary. The Chairman urged members to please come forward and place their name on one of the sub-committee sign-up sheets provided at the meeting. He then named each sub-committee and their Chairs. They are as follows:

Conference Sub-Committee:

Co-Chairs:		E-Mail addresses
Chuck Nichols	697-1458	nichols_c@mail.chattanooga.gov
David Darnell	493-2736	darneld@bash-corp.com

Membership Sub-Committee:

Co-Chairs:		
Bob Diehl	622-3884	pbdeal@mindspring.com
Amy Maxwell	209-6922	AmyM@exch.hamiltontn.gov

Emergency Plans Sub-Committee:

Co-Chairs:		
Eric Burnett	757-4887	burnett_e@mail.chattanooga.gov
Larry Martin	238-7111	larry_martin@ccmail.mckee.com]

Programs/Outreach Sub-Committee:

Co-Chairs		
Joyce Wagner	533-3348	Joyce_Wagner@sind.com
Caroline Williams	892-1602	(No e-mail address)

Exercise Sub-Committee:

Co-Chairperson:		
Jamie Farrow	756-2471	jfarrow@poultry.com

By-Laws Sub-Committee:

Co-Chairs:		
Wayne Stuntz	495-1743	wstuntz@exch.hamiltontn.gov
Larry Martin	238-7111	larry_martin@ccmail.mckee.com

The Chairman asked sub-committee chairpersons to provide short and long term goals for their respective committees by the next LEPC meeting in January.

The Chairman, staying with the agenda, mentioned that Mr. Stuntz (who previously commented on the need for an audit of the LEPC financial status) had already made plans for the Hamilton County Auditor’s office to conduct the audit.

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The Chairman than proposed to the Committee to alter the Title III Coordinator’s role to include Treasurer responsibilities. The motion was made and seconded and approved by the committee. Mr. Stuntz’ new responsibilities as Treasurer are to begin after the LEPC Conference finance matters are finalized.

Other Business:

The Chairman then asked if there was anyone present who wished to become members of the LEPC. The following raised their hands and stated their names and company/agency affiliation and were unanimously accepted by the committee.

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| Mr. Chris Young | Atlanta Gas Light Company |
| Mr. Mike Brooks | East Ridge Fire Department |
| Mr. Indu Thacker | Hamilton County Engineering Department |

The Chairman then recognized Ms. Caroline Williams who made an appeal to LEPC members to make suggestions to the Programs/Outreach Sub-Committee regarding programs that would be of interest to the LEPC, as well as places to have future meetings. She reiterated to the committee a previous suggestion that perhaps two or three companies/agencies might join together to host a meeting.

The Chairman brought up the topic of attendance at LEPC meetings, specifically the unwritten “three strikes and your out” rule. He stated that when the primary LEPC member could not attend, that perhaps the company/agency could send a representative on their behalf. The Chairman invited some discussion on this subject. There being no clear, unanimous consensus from the committee, the Chairman then decided to give this concern to the Membership Sub-Committee to evaluate and return with a recommendation. Mr. Garner said that whatever is decided, the policy should be included in the revised by-laws.

Date and Location for Next LEPC Meeting:

To be announced by letter/e-mail at a later date.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m. Afterward, the membership was treated to lunch at the Fire Training Center courtesy of the Chattanooga Fire Department.

Respectively submitted:

Wayne Stuntz
LEPC Title III Coordinator